

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the present amendments and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-7, and 9-15 are pending. Claims 5, 6, and 11-15 are withdrawn. By this amendment, Claims 1, 3-7, and 9-15 are amended; Claims 2 and 8 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer; and no claims are added herewith. Support for the present amendments can be found in the original specification, for example, at page 5, lines 33-36, and in Figs. 1 and 2. Thus, it is respectfully requested that no new matter is added by this amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-4 and 7-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; Claims 4 and 10 were objected to; Claims 1 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Ueda (U.S. Pat. No. 6,719,876) or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Ueda; and Claims 2, 3, 8, and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Ueda in view of Takagi (U.S. Publication No. 2004/0020432).

With respect to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, the claims are amended to correct the informalities noted in the Office Action. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph be withdrawn. However, if the Examiner disagrees, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned who will be happy to work with the Examiner in a joint effort to derive mutually acceptable language.

With respect to the objection to Claims 4 and 10, the claims are amended to correct the issue of multiple dependencies noted in the Office Action. It is respectfully submitted

that no new matter is added. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objection to Claims 4 and 10 be withdrawn.

Turning now to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Ueda and Takagi, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of these rejections and traverse these rejections, as discussed below. It is respectfully submitted that the applied art does not disclose or suggest “installing a plurality of substrates on both sides of and in parallel to said array antennas so as to have respective distances between the array antennas and the substrates substantially similar to the intervals,” and then “forming thin films on the substrates,” as recited in Claims 1 and 7.

In contrast, Ueda discusses an electrode type plasma processing apparatus in which an array of electrodes 22A-22E (functioning as antennas as asserted in the Office Action) are arranged in a plane and parallel to a film-deposition surface of the rectangular substrate 21. The electrodes are comprised of two conductors, with one end of the electrodes being grounded. Figure 5 of Ueda shows rectangular substrates 31 arranged on both sides of and parallel to electrode arrays 33-35. However, Ueda does not disclose or suggest “installing a plurality of substrates on both sides of and in parallel to said array antennas so as to have respective distances between the array antennas and the substrates substantially similar to the said intervals,” as recited in Claims 1 and 7.

In accordance with the features of the claimed invention as discussed in the present specification, for example, at page 8, lines 10-12 and 26-35, the claimed thin films provide a probability of production of either or both of microcrystalline silicon and amorphous silicon, controllability of crystallinity in obtained silicon films (controllability of a ratio of microcrystalline silicon to amorphous silicon). It is respectfully submitted that these results are advantageous because the existence of microcrystalline silicon and its ratio influences the

property of the obtained silicon film. Ueda and Takagi are silent about probability of production of microcrystalline silicon and controllability of crystallinity in obtained silicon films, and therefore, the applied art cannot provide at least the advantages discussed above.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of Claims 1 and 7, and all claims dependent thereon, as anticipated by or unpatentable over Ueda, be withdrawn.

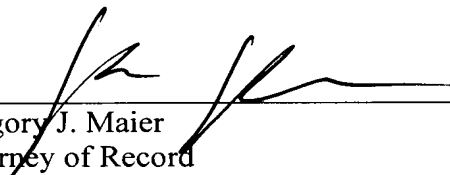
Regarding the rejections of Claims 2, 3, 8, and 9, it is noted that Claims 2 and 8 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Regarding Claims 3 and 9, it is respectfully submitted that Takagi does not cure the above-noted deficiencies with respect to Ueda. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejections of Claims 3 and 9 be withdrawn.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussions, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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